STATE OF MICHIGAN THE OFFICE OF RACING COMMISSIONER 36750 Professional Center Drive – 105A, Livonia, MI 48154-1100

Telephone: 734-462-2400 Fax: 734-462-2429

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE May 2, 2001

Contact: Dominic Perrone 734-462-2400 ext.332 perroned9@state.mi.us

MICHIGAN MOTHER LOOKS FOR THREE-YEAR-OLD TO BRING HOME THE ROSES

LIVONIA, MI – The month of May is synonymous with two things – Mother's Day and the Kentucky Derby. For one Michigan mother, these two events may roll into one grandiose event when her three-year-old colt, *Express Tour* takes to the track for the 127th Kentucky Derby in Louisville, Kentucky.

Express Tour, owned by Godolphin Racing Inc., is the leading money earner in this year's Kentucky Derby field thanks to a \$1.2 million paycheck for winning the United Arab Emirates Derby on March 24 in Dubai.

The mother (mare) of *Express Tour* is *Express Fashion*, a dark bay Michigan-bred daughter of *Private Express* out of *Fashion Jet*. *Express Fashion* was foaled at the Hubell Farm near Grand Rapids in 1992 and was registered to race as a Michigan-bred at the Michigan Department of Agriculture in 1994. After racing only four races at the former Ladbroke Detroit Race Course, *Express Fashion* was relocated to Florida where she is currently spending her days as a brood-mare for the Silva family.

"We're excited that *Express Tour*, the foal of a Michigan horse, will be a competing in the most legendary race of all time," said Racing Commissioner Annette M. Bacola. "The three-year-old colt has continued to make positive impressions on the racing world during workout sessions at Churchill Downs this week," continued Bacola.

Look for *Express Tour* at any one of Michigan's seven pari-mutuel racing venues on May 5 as the 127th "Run for the Roses" commences at Churchill Downs.

###

www.mda.state.mi.us